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Rome December 7. 1824

My dear Sarah

Your letter by my friend Mr Westmacott gave me great

happiness both for its manner and contents - as well as its coming so the

first dear tidings of my home at last. Never make so long a pause

again, I must hear from you all, at least once in two Months - but

now some two Months have past and I have been always thinking and

always tormented about you all - why write you wait the sending by my

own hand when there is the surer and quicker way by Post. But I want

to argue, for this is my birthday, and I too wish have all the kind things

you are thinking and thinking on my account - and let me then & God

that your wishes at this moment, you can with me my happiness

which I can ask to have - or think of me in your affectionate heart

and mind will picture to you - which is not realised to me here - but

is the most grateful news I can send you - My health is now really

established - and in strength and spirits I am younger than when I

left England - yet I am certainly younger - I am equal to more

fatigue - and equal to the sufferings of the world. - But I'll tell

you some particulars of these blessings which I enjoy - and I say

that I had removed - which know that first. —

and that as my house is very large, I have a friend living with me in the meantime to
we divide expences - and as he is a very gentlemanly and amiable man
and a fine Scholar too, I am very fortunate - we live at home and find
of the cook Rose. - I have given another part of my place to a most
excellent family - man and wife and 2 Sisters. they wait on
me in return and have been with me 1½ years. - the wife who
is my Servant - is a young woman and very clever and willing -
She has learned to cook in our English taste - in this too I am lucky
In this new place I have the most capital study in Rome with the
finest possible light and in such a healthy situation, that no
Englishman lived 15 years before me, in Rome, without ever suffering
the least illness. - but above all I find my present journey
in occupation (which is my heart's delight,) with health, success
and every advantage in the prosecution of it. - what more can mortal
wish - I am certainly one of the most fortunate young men living -
Below I write not - I cannot calculate it to merit or deserving in
me, for it is what I did not even dream, in my most sanguine hopes
of it, it was a gift from God, which I must use to some good
purpose - I will also pray for future success if it was not
to make my father & mother happy. — Perhaps you would think
me greatly changed in person for the better - I am not much fatter
but more upright - my hair and complexion are darker, and
my voice stronger & deeper - I am become rather dandyish
about my cloaths. - In my Painting Room I have finished

the Italian Cottage in picture with 23 Figures and much land
about it ——— I am delighted my dear Sarah at what you tell
me of all living under the same roof this will certainly be well
— You have given me comfort in your reconcilement to my long
stay in Italy — my pension is now finished — but I am not as yet
finished to return to England — the advantages too — I have named I
could not have in England — so I must take remain until my name
is established and my works are known — I am now sitting
down in a large and handsome room of 30 feet in length — 25 in
width with 2 large Windows open and the glorious and de
giving warmth to my room without the aid of a fire — my friend
Capt. Bains is sitting at another table drawing — the thing I for-
got to tell you last I pay only 11£ a year for a house with 6 co
20 for which my friend has for which he pays me 11£ for
— I am really comfortable, and you will pray with me that it
may ——— 25th Dec. We are going to have dinner at
plum pudding, &c. but I want you all to have a slice to-day
are my wants. &c. I must try to finish you all sitting down
to dinner, and when it is 4 o'clock I shall think of you all
at it. may God send you all happiness and content to be enjoyed
of it. may my dear Father have his jollity and his Organ, his drum &
and plum pudding in perfection, not forgetting the trumpets in the
evening — Would that I could be by him to comfort his sister of
Christmas comforts — Jan 3rd 1825 — I have just got the joyful
news of the arrival of my pictures — the Commissioners have sent
me a cheering letter — approving my conduct and works — which re-
moves me from any fear of blame or mistaken

I have been thinking much my dear Sarah of that part of your letta about your dr- it is difficult for me to advise you your case as I think, but great[er] prudence will show you the right way- I am greatly pleased at your determining under the same roof- this will certainly be a comfort to you on all occasions- you must let both Father & Mother have their ways in all things- or at least seem to do so- each one of you must keep in his & her proper occupation that is I mean Father must not attempt to make or know how to make Children Plaisters nor you to build Ovens- for my dear Sarah

attempt to write Doctorines or Operas or Tom insist on the Plum pudding prerogative- or Maria be forlorn or sigh for her absent brother- when she may laugh and make herself more happy- and even Love dearer than ever- So you see by each one in his occupation you must agree and be happy I will stop at last- For goodness my dear Sarah- as you wish to be the head of the house- be advised by me in one thing be few words, and always on second thought- making a rule, that what is disagreable to others is wrong- think that the same thing may be accomplished by different means, looking only to what the result may be- and never allow the mere difference of words to change that result if it may be good- But you will laugh at my old maxims- Dear Sarah remember my love to all and believe me your faithfully affectionate brother

Joseph